

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor the courage and Hoosier spirit of the crew of the USS Indianapolis.

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**KENLEY, MERRITT**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor the courage and Hoosier spirit of the crew of the USS Indianapolis.

*Whereas, The USS Indianapolis was commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard November 15, 1932, and, on July 30, 1945, while sailing from Guam to Leyte Gulf, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine;*

*Whereas, When torpedoed, the USS Indianapolis was returning from its assignment to deliver components for the world's second and third atomic bombs to the island of Tinian;*

*Whereas, The USS Indianapolis capsized and sank in 12 minutes;*

*Whereas, Of the original 1,196 men on board, approximately 300 went down with the ship;*

*Whereas, The remaining sailors were left with very few lifeboats and struggled to survive in shark infested waters;*

*Whereas, On August 2, 1945, while flying a routine*



*antisubmarine patrol in the area, Lieutenant Wilbur C. Gwinn spotted the survivors;*

*Whereas, By the end of the search on August 8, 1945, only 316 survivors were found;*

*Whereas, In a highly controversial proceeding, Captain Charles McVay III, the captain of the USS Indianapolis and one of the survivors, was court-martialed and convicted of "hazarding his ship by failing to zigzag", making him the only captain to be court-martialed for losing a ship in combat;*

*Whereas, In October 2000, President Clinton signed legislation exonerating Captain McVay and the Navy conceded that Captain McVay was innocent of any wrongdoing;*

*Whereas, The sinking of the USS Indianapolis remains the worst U.S. Naval disaster in history and the worst loss of life from shark attack in naval history; and*

*Whereas, On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this disaster, keeping the memory of the USS Indianapolis and her valiant crew alive is of the utmost importance: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the  
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana State Senate honors the members of
- 2 the USS Indianapolis and remembers the brave sailors who lost their
- 3 lives.
- 4 SECTION 2. That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy
- 5 of this Resolution to Paul J. Murphy, chairman of the board of the USS
- 6 Indianapolis Survivors Organization.

